

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1936 to promote and foster interest in local history in
Edmonton Enfield Potters Bar Southgate South Mimms Tottenham Wood Green Monken Hadley

E H H S
Exploring
Local
History

September 2022

Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 21st September**
at **8pm** at **Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ**
Doors open at 7.30pm

Dolly Shepherd **Edwardian Lady Parachutist**

A talk by Kirsten Forrest

Kirsten Forrest, Curatorial and Interpretation Manager at Alexandra Palace, relates the fascinating story of a top-drawer star of the entertainment heritage at Alexandra Palace, Dolly Shepherd 'The Edwardian Lady Parachutist'.

Elizabeth, nicknamed Dolly as a baby because of her doll-like looks, became famous for jumping out of balloons and floating back to earth in front of crowds of admirers.

She was a daring performer who made her first and last jumps from Alexandra Park, but had a successful career nationally and unlike many of her aerial pioneer friends survived accidents, going on to serve in both the First and Second World Wars.



Photo: in the Public Domain

Dolly Shepherd in 1911

Diary Dates - talks and events arranged by other organisations

Tuesday 13th September. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ.
Lord Kitchener: the Man behind the Poster. Meeting to be followed by Branch AGM.
Councillor Michael Rye *Historical Association*

Wednesday 14th September. 6pm. Online or in person. See Gresham College Website.
Progresses: Royal Courts on the Move in Tudor and Stuart England. Prof. Simon Thurley
Gresham College

Tuesday 20th September. 2-4pm. Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU
Reminiscence café. Inside and Out – A Close Look at Our Buildings. As city dwellers we are surrounded by buildings – many we don't notice, others may interest us and quite a few we find ugly. What buildings stand out for you and do they still exist and can you bring along any pictures
Bruce Castle Museum

Thursday 22nd September. 8pm. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ
AGM followed by From Fields and the Forest to Royals and the Railway – the story of Chingford
Joanna Moncrieff *The Enfield Society*

Monday 26th September. 12 noon for 12.15. Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane Tottenham, N17 8NU
Standardised, Serviceable and Simply Designed: Utility Furniture at 80. Ray Swain Memorial
Lecture 2022. Deborah Hedgecock supported by Paul Collier *Bruce Castle Museum*

Stories of Enfield Touring Exhibition

Fourteen stories exploring elements of Enfield's heritage, history and identity - from river communities, stained glass windows and Bangladeshi migration through to London's only vineyard and Edmonton's boxing bishop.

29th August to 13th September. Enfield Town Library Green

13th September to 27th September. Edmonton Angel Sterling Way

27th September to 11th October. Forty Hall Courtyard

11th October to 25th October. Broomfield Park, Palmers Green

25th October to 15th November. Edmonton Green Shopping Centre

Open House Festival 2022

This year's Open House Festival runs for two weeks from Thursday 8th September to Wednesday 21st September with open days, tours and events across all 33 London Boroughs.

Visit the Open House website for the full programme <https://programme.openhouse.org.uk/>

You will need to visit the website to book

Some local buildings, guided tours, talks and walks.

Bruce Castle Museum. Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September. 1pm-5pm.

Guided tours and talks by conservation architects Butler & Hegarty on Saturday. Guided tours on Sunday With activities for children on both days.

All Saints Church, Edmonton. Saturday 10th September 10am-4pm & Sunday 11th 1pm-5pm.

Myddelton House. Saturday 10th September 10am-4pm.

Chicken Shed Theatre. Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September. 12-1pm. Guided tour

Tower and Churchyard of St Mary's Hornsey. Sunday 18th September. 2-5pm

Edmonton Girls Charity School. Saturday 17th September 11am-5pm

Wards Corner Community Plan. Sunday 11th September. 3pm -4.45pm. Walking tour

Forty Hall Vineyard. Sunday 11th September. 11am-5pm. Walking tour

Tottenham High Street Heritage Action Zone. Sunday 11th & Saturday 17th September 12-1pm

Enfield: From Medieval to Millennium. Saturday 17th September. 11am-1pm. Guided tour

Tottenham Hale's Emerging Green Grid. Saturday 17th September 10am-12noon.

Co-designing public space and art in North Tottenham. Saturday 17th September 2-4pm

My Life and Family by Joseph Rye

Edited by Michael Rye

Continuing the memoirs of Joseph Rye written between his 79th and 80th birthdays at the behest of his grandson Councillor Michael Rye. Chapters 1, 2 and 3 can be found in our February, March and July newsletters.

Chapter 4 – Work 1910-1914

I left school when I was aged 14. I had to find a job and eventually found work locally with Mr Chandler delivering milk. I used to go around on a two wheeled cart with a large can of milk and scoop to ladle out the pint or half pint into customer's jugs. When I ran short of milk, I had to go back to Forty Hill Station with a float to get the big churn. I was paid 3d an hour, but I did not stay long, as I had to assist the veterinary Mr Davis¹ and various brothers Chandler to get a dead calf from inside a cow. It turned me up so I left this job.



Enfield Local Studies

Forty Hill Station in 1909 (now Turkey Street)

I then got a job at Ediswan through Mr H Aylott, where I worked on the cable and lighting for the funeral of King Edward VII that was held on 20th May 1910. However, I soon tired of this job as the women there were not very nice to youngsters, but the real reason for leaving, which I did not tell my parents, was that the money was not very good.

I now went to work for Mr W Washington² at the corner of the lane in Turkey Street doing various maintenance jobs. My first job there was painting the iron fence through the footpath from Turkey Street to below Maidens Bridge. Mr E W Kempe called this footpath Madeira Walk. My pay here was 4d an hour. Mr W Washington always used to check our work, carrying a little glass in his pocket to see behind the pipes and boards etc.



Ediswan's Workshop c. 1914

Enfield Local Studies & Archive ©

Another job we had was at Forty Hall where we worked with the staff at Colonel Bowles' home, I worked with the carpenters and bricklayers who were all very good workmen. I helped take the floor out of Forty Hall yard and passageways. It was a very nasty job as the floor was alive with insects. The carpenters at the Hall were the best in their profession. Mr T Slade, Mr F Edwards, Mr W Marshal and later Mr Taverner. Mr Edwards gave me the job of laying the new boards, clamping them together and finally driving the nails right home.

I then helped put up a split oak fence along the footpath on the estate through the Clapper gates, as they were called. Life was interesting at this time at the Hall and I became known to everybody there. In my spare time I was to play cricket and football for Myddelton Juniors at Myddelton House ground which is still there today.

Then in 1911 came a change in my occupation as I went to work in the employment of Col. A L T Tisdall ³ CMG KS (Khedive Star) and Mrs K M T Tisdall in Ordnance Road. Both were very good to me. My parents had been interviewed before I got the job to see if I was a good lad. Here I had a varied life as garden boy under two gardeners. We had to look after 150 to 200 hens, peahens and ducks. I had to maintain the tennis lawn, marking it out and adjusting the new. I was a jack-of-all-trades, often cleaning Col. Tisdall's uniform and boots, also knives and cutlery using Wellington Powder.

At times I helped in the house, then another time I went to caddy for the Colonel when we went to play golf, and another time I would travel with him to Chelsea Barracks and Wellington Barracks. The Colonel was very liberal with his money, always giving me 6d when I took his luggage to Enfield Lock Station.

He used to say to me, "Very good George", as he was Irish and this is what he always called me. Once he gave me a gold half sovereign and I queried it. He said to me, "When I give you anything in future, do not query it, as I am given too much by the Army!"



Photo: Enfield Local Studies

The Colonel's House, Ordnance Road, in 1972

We were all one happy family in the Officer's Quarters in Ordnance Road and contrary to what some people believed they were not all old Colonels. There was Col. Tisdall, next door Captain Byron and later a Major Frederick Byrne whilst Lt Smythe-Piggot lived in the end house. They were all nice officers and I used to see them when they held tennis and bridge parties which were often attended by Mr E S Rashleigh, Capt S Cranfield and also General French of Manor House (Capel Manor).

We carried a considerable staff that comprised: cook, housekeeper, parlour

maid, housemaid, kitchen maid, at times a valet, plus us gardeners. I remember the names quite well, Ann Butcher – cook, Kate Fakes – housemaid, Miss O D Murton – kitchen maid (who unbeknown to me at this time in 1921 was to become my wife). Miss Keys, Miss Bidgewell and Miss E Thompson another of the Forty Hill young women from Maidens Bridge. Mrs Tisdall ran the house but, in those days, you did not see the Lady of the House after she had given her orders and told the cook what she wanted for meals and what company were coming. This meeting was always at 10 o'clock in the morning and afterwards she was not allowed in the kitchen.

I used to go to the kitchen for the slate on which were written what vegetables and fruit was needed for that day. It was more or less a military establishment as Miss K Fakes married a marine sergeant from Deal Castle and Edie Thompson married Colour Sergeant S Cox of the Middlesex Regiment. I might say I now took over as full gardener from Eric Ridgewell who went into the RAOC with the Colonel's backing.

It was about this time that the Colonel bought me a Rudge cycle to save me some walking when I had been caddying for him all day on the golf course. It was with this cycle that I taught some of the maids to ride cycles, although not without the odd accident in the flowerbeds! Another job I did for the Colonel was disposing of old K.R.R. in other words King's Rules and Regulations and I used to peruse these quite a bit and this helped me later on in my army career.

Talking of the King, I well remember standing on some raised ground in Ordnance Road with the other staff from the Colonel's to watch King George V drive past on his way to open the reservoir named after him. In 1913 Colonel Tisdall retired, but before doing so he tried to get me into the Navy having a side bet with Mrs Tisdall that I would pass the entry requirements. I did, but my teeth let me down in the medical losing the Colonel a crate of whisky. When the Colonel retired, I

had to find another job and my future wife, Miss O D Murton had left for a job in London and I was not to see her again until 1917.



Ordnance Road, the Coop can be seen on the left

Photo: Enfield Local Studies

From 1913 to 1914 I worked at the Co-op in Ordnance Road. At first, I rode a tricycle delivering goods from the grocery department, going along the tow path by the River Lea to various customers at Government Row and as far as the swimming baths and also to the Lock.

When not doing deliveries I sometimes had to go to the Midland Bank in Elmhurst Road to get copper and silver change for the manager. Later I was moved to the warehouse, under Mr Haynes. I

used to get to work at 7.30am and pull up the shutters before going to the warehouse to inspect the eggs which came in crates of 150. I then unpacked these into egg boxes which were placed on the glass counters inside the shop.

I was very happy here as I went from job to job. During the week we had to weigh up soda, sugar, oats, etc working in teams. Mr S Maw the secretary was known to all as 5/4d although I never knew why. One weekend he told me to go into the shop and serve greengrocery. I enjoyed this once I had passed his test. Mr Maw brought what I thought was the greengrocery. I got all he wanted, telling him how much it cost, then he said that's alright, now you can put them back. Another job I did whilst at the Co-op, was to go to Lemn Street and get tea from C.W.S. then another day go with a driver to get Bryant and Mays matches which were in huge boxes of 144 or 1 gross. The boxes were sold at 1½d per dozen. Something else I did was to drive a horse and cart with groceries to deliver twice a week. On the grocery round one had to take out all sorts and also chicken food consisting of maize corn of various sorts and 1½cts sacks of bran. I spent Christmas 1913 plucking poultry (as we got a little extra for this but not much).



Lea towpath at Ponders Enfield

Photo: Enfield Local Studies

Other things prepared at the shop were legs of pork, hams and sausages which we put through a hand machine to put skins on them. The total staff at the shop was the Manager and about nine of us. On one occasion we all got together and had General Bus take us to the Co-op Chocolate factory at Luton. It was a really nice outing and we had our photos taken before we set off.

Bert Richardson and Ossie Williams from the office were in the party, also Mr Eastwood who was a semi-professional tap dancer. I might add these lads all joined the forces when the time came along. I left my service at the Co-op two months after the war started, but my total wages throughout my short stay there did not bring me much money in. Only hard work.

1. W & S Chandler, Cow keepers, Shell Cottage, Russell Road. Wm. Rich Davis Veterinary Surgeons, 87 Chase Side.
2. Wm. Washington Plumber & Gas Fitter, Turkey St.
3. Chief Inspector Royal Small Arms Factory

The Chairman Writes

I noted in the paper the other day that the Worshipful Company of Loriners' (they make the bits for horses tackle) had given an award for their work to Capel Manor College in Bullsmoor Lane. This is not the only activity the Loriners are concerned with in the Hundred. They also sponsor an Air Training Corps in Tottenham. It is not readily appreciated how much the Livery Companies raise for charities and for education. Indeed when a new Company is accepted, it has to guarantee a large sum annually before it can be admitted. Currently I believe there are around 120 companies with new ones coming forward. I was speaking to the Master of the Pewterers' Company and he told me that as they had their own Hall they were constantly being offered large sums of money by developers who offered to redevelop and give them space too but he reckoned they would be out of pocket and lose control of the venue.

If you are interested in the story of Walter Tull (the first professional footballer of Afro-Caribbean descent who played for the Spurs), you can go to the National Army Museum's website where there is an excellent film about him.

I have been to Sotheby's to see a display of tiaras celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, all were from a private collection but you could identify where a few of them originally came from.

I noted in a recent Enfield Society News that a new park, Boundary Park, had been created to run alongside the Boundary Ditch and connect up with Cuckoo Hall Recreation Ground. As a boy the first part, near the Hertford Road, was my playground. I lived in a flat that backed on to the ditch, which was about 4ft down with a track on either side and a piece of rough ground on which we rode our bikes, made camps and got into and out of scrapes. On the opposite side of the ditch was the Boundary Pub garden, what had once been an orchard and an uncultivated area of land with a high mesh fence around it. We sometimes tried to dam the ditch unsuccessfully, but, one day, someone had seen "The Dam Busters" and had found a good piece of wood to form a base. Then it was all hands to the pumps to dig up clumps of earth and build our dam. We were quite pleased



Boundary Ditch at Ponders End

Enfield Local Studies & Archives©

with our work until two men from the Water Authority turned up to find out what was going on. What we had forgotten was the ditch went past Warrior Dye Works and Reeves Paints and was flooding back. They called us off just before the dam broke, it took an hour before the level was back to normal. I dread to think what could have happened if a child was in the ditch further down when it broke. The ditch did change colour according to surpluses from the factories. The ground was useful on firework night as a big bonfire could be made and the ashes pushed into the water. Ah! Happy days.

Howard Whisker

Letters and Emails

Memories of Enfield's Charter Day

Whilst I was sorting through some old papers that once belonged to my late Aunt and Uncle, Vera and William Keene, I found the enclosed. It is part of a letter that I wrote to them on 27th September 1955, Enfield's Charter Day when the Lord Mayor of London visited Enfield to present Enfield's Charter of Incorporation as a Borough to Enfield's Mayor. Schoolchildren had that day as a holiday and I remember being in Enfield Town, and later at Forty Hall, to witness the outdoors events. This letter was written to my relatives, then living at Elsenham, Essex, to tell them all

about it – neither my grandparents (with whom I was living then) nor my Aunt and Uncle had telephones, so letters were our usual forms of communication.

This old letter of mine does give a snippet or two about that day and it is a pity that the other page, which told of the Forty Hall events is missing.

The two Enfield Grammar School masters mentioned were Mr K. O. Lane (who taught English) and Mr Alan Quick (who was one of the French masters).

Frank Bayford



Available to watch on London Screen Archive website
<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk/>

*Procession arriving in Enfield Town.
Still from Enfield Local Studies & Archives film of the Charter Day.*

Dear Auntie Vera and Uncle Bill,

This morning, I waited with my friend Graham (you saw him in the front room) and his sister opposite the market place, which was packed. At 12.00 the procession arrived. There were 5 coaches. The first I think, the mayor of Enfield was in, and I saw in it the mace of Enfield. It was the 4th coach drawn by 4 horses that the Lord Mayor of London was in. He had the Mayoress with him and also the Mace of London (I think). This mace was massive, the upper main part being over a foot long and about 10 inches in diameter. The coaches stopped outside the old entrance of the Rialto, a canopy being erected over it for the occasion. After the coaches had passed a squadron of our ATC boys marched past led by 2 of our masters (Mr Lane and Mr Quick). They were followed by the Navy Cadets (not our boys) Boys' Brigade, Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides. By the way, when the Lord Mayor entered the Rialto, a fanfare of trumpets was sounded.

After going home to dinner, I went up to Forty Hall (meeting friends on the way) where the procession as to come after luncheon in the Grammar School. After walking round the grounds, we waited for quite a while. Then at 4.00 the mayors arrived.

One Hundred Years Ago in the Edmonton Hundred

Several local residents who have sought work on the alterations of the river Lee bitterly criticise the method – or lack of it – in selecting workmen. Their chief grievance appears to be that “graft” plays an important part in the obtaining of employment.

It is understood that representations are to be made in official quarters with a view to rendering the chances of the more impecunious equal to those in a position to “invest”.

Enfield Gazette 4th August 1922

A Mistake

How many of our readers have ever noticed the spelling error on the above milestone ? Situated on Bush Hill “Enfield 1 mile” is measured to the stone let into the pavement in the Town, and “London 9” to Shoreditch Church

Enfield Gazette 1st September 1922



St John’s Ambulance

During the past two months the motor ambulance of the Enfield Division St Johns Ambulance has been overhauled and renewed in parts. It is now fitted with electric light. The transport work of the Brigade is carried out entirely by voluntary contributions, and the officers and members would be glad if the public would recognise this fact and subscribe liberally. In spite of the fact that the car has been “laid up” for two months, no fewer than 145 cases have been removed since January. *Enfield Gazette 22nd September 1922*

Graham Frost

New Book

Monarchs, Courtiers and Technocrats; Elsyng Palace, Enfield: Place and People:

The Documentary and Archaeological Evidence for a Fifteenth to Seventeenth Century Courtier’s House and Tudor and Stuart Royal Palace; and for the Lives of its Owners and Households

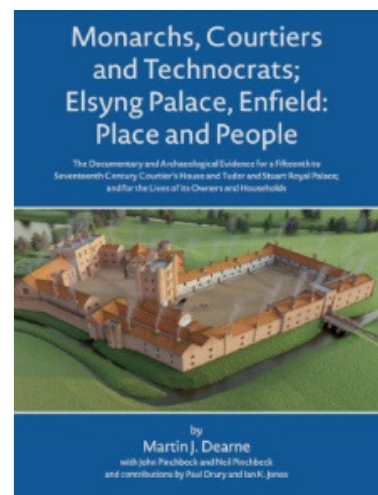
by Martin J. Dearne with John Pinchbeck and Neil Pinchbeck and contributions by Paul Drury and Ian K. Jones

The new and long awaited book from Enfield Archaeological Society is both an historical study and archaeological report. It is based on years of research into original medieval documents and the excavations that have taken place on the site.

£25.00 inc. p&p

Available by post from the Enfield Archaeological Society, 9 Junction Road, Edmonton, London, N9 7JS.

Or via the EAS website <https://www.enfarchsoc.org/>



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Please send contributions to the newsletter to Kate Godfrey, 69 Margaret Road, New Barnet.

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